

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

REF: TEHRAN 12296

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. LATEST IN THE SERIES OF RECENT EDITORIALS SETTING FORTH IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IS FOLLOWING COMMENT FROM TEHRAN JOURNAL OF DECEMBER 14 WHICH IS REPRODUCED IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE TO IRAN OF ITS EASTERN FRONTIERS (PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, ETC.) ALONG WITH CONTINUING INTEREST IN SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

"RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT WERE RECEIVED IN TEHRAN WITH MUCH SATISFACTION AND OPTIMISM. FOR IRAN, AN ADDED FACTOR WAS THE RECOGNITION BY LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, FOR INSTANCE, THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY BY THIS COUNTRY PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE.

"THIS ROLE IRAN IS WELL SUITED TO PERFORM. SITUATED IN WEST ASIA, IRAN HAS AS MUCH CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY AND WELL BEING OF ITS EASTERN NEIGHBORS AS FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG THE PERSIAN GULF LITTORAL STATES, A NON-NUCLEAR ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT LARGE AND PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBOR, IRAQ.

"THE SHAHANSHAH IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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ISSUED THE TIMELY WARNING AGAINST ANY MISCONCEPTION THAT THE

HORMOZ STRAITS ALONE COMPRISE THIS COUNTRY'S JUGULAR VEIN; IT IS INDEED JUST AS IMPORTANT FOR IRAN THAT THE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS NOW PREVAILING EAST OF IRAN SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, NOTHING CAN BE BETTER THAN THE MAINTENANCE OF STATUS QUO FOR IRAN AS WELL AS ITS EASTERN NEIGHBORS.

"AS THE SHAHANSHAH OBSERVEDD, "JUST IMAGINE--IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO PAKISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN, WE SHALL HAVE AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A CHANGE CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. THEREFORE IRAN HAS ACTED IN RIGHT EARNEST BY FORGING CLOSE LINKS WITH INDIA, PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, SRI LANKA AND COUNTRIES FARTHER STILL, LIKE BANGLADESH. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO FINANCING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THESE COUNTRIES--THE BASIC AIM OF COURSE BEING THE GUARANTEEING OF POLITICAL STABILITY THROUGH ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION.

"AGAIN AS A PILLAR OF STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, IRAN CANNOT IGNORE TO PERFORM ITS ROLE IN THE PERSIAN GULF. "JUST IMAGINE IF OMAN HAD FALLEN TO THE HANDS OF THE PFLOS (THE DEFUNCT TERRORIST ORGANIZATION) THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM HAD SET UP THERE," THE SHAHANSHAH ADDRESSED THE AP INTERVIEWER. THEY COULD HAVE THREATENED, WITH ALMOST NOTHING, THE FREE PASSAGE OF ALL THAT SOURCE OF ENERGY TO THE WORLD.

"OUR STRENGTH WILL BE FIRST OF ALL THE STABILITY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE. THEN IRAN CONTRIBUTES TO THE STABILITY OF THE ENTIRE PERSIAN GULF AREA BECAUSE WE MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL THE RIPARIAN STATES. IF THEY COOPERATE WITH US, SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF NOT WE HAVE GOT TO BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE STRAITS OPEN, IF NECESSARY ALONE.

"SINCE THE LITTORAL STATES HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE DESIRED SCALE OF FULL COORDINATION, IT IS NATURAL FOR IRAN TO BE PREPARED FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES. THIS HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD SOMETIMES, AND SOMETIMES NOT, AND THERE IS IGNORANCE ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OBTAINING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD OR LACK OF SIMPLE, GEOPOLITICAL KNOWLEDGE.

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"THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT FOR INSTANCE WAS ABLE TO WATCH FOR HIMSELF THE OIL SHIPPING THROUGH THE STRAITS OF HORMOZ AND REALIZED HOW THIS VITAL, INTERNATIONAL LIFE-LINE COULD BE CUT EASILY. THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IRAN'S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, TO COME AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES BEFORE UNLOADING OPINIONS OF DUBIOUS MERIT ON THE REST OF THE WORLD."

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